

*Dang!!! Talk about a judicial zinger. Justice Roberts, we hardly recognize you!

Indeed, those pesky statutes and the U.S. Constitution were constantly hindering the Obama Administration's plans.

In this case, President Obama completely ignored the Federal Vacancies Reform Act (FVRA), which allows the president, with restrictions, to temporarily fill vacancies that would otherwise need Senate approval.

One of the conditions of the FVRA is that the president cannot play fast and loose with the Senate's role in confirming appointees by temporarily filling a position with the same person who is then nominated for the "permanent" position as well.

In 2010, President Obama did exactly what this act forbids--he tapped Lafe Solomon to temporarily fill the vacancy as the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) general counsel, and then nominated Solomon to permanently fill the same position he was already temporarily holding.

The Buckeye Institute's President Robert Alt said of the high court's decision today, "The Buckeye Institute's victory at the U.S. Supreme Court in *National Labor Relations Board v. SW General, Inc.* reaffirms a basic principle all Americans understand and support: we are a nation of laws, not of men. No one is above the law--not even the President himself."

The Buckeye Institute will continue to fight to ensure that our government operates within the limits established by law. To all of our supporters, today is your day. You won this case. You sent your financial contributions to support our efforts, you encouraged us not to give up the good fight, and you steadfastly believed with unwavering conviction that here in these United States of America, justice would ultimately prevail.

We dedicate this excellent decision today by the Supreme Court to you who faithfully contribute generously and thoughtfully to support our efforts to bring cases like this forward and fight back against unconstitutional acts even by the most powerful officeholder

in the world. We are humbled and grateful to be able to do this work day in and day out with your help--and win these cases--thanks to you good people.

Take a bow, and then raise a toast with us, "Today is a great day. My bracket lost resoundingly, but justice won undoubtedly."

###

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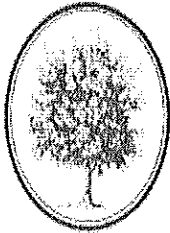
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 8:24 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Buckeye is taking an axe to the feather duster fight in Washington



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2017

The Buckeye Institute is Leading Charge to Cut Stifling Regulations, Rollback Red Tape, and... Yes, Drain the Washington Swamp Using a Carefully Chosen Tool for the Job: the Congressional Review Act (CRA)

COLUMBUS, OH--On Friday morning, The Buckeye Institute announced its metaphorical use of the axe that is the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

The high temperatures in Columbus the next few days are expected to be in the low 70s. With the arrival of warmer weather brings a natural desire to do some spring cleaning, and your Buckeye Institute is well prepared for this dirty job. While the Washington establishment types are taking feather dusters in to do some light touching up and dust removal here and there, your Buckeye Institute is making use of a mighty axe (the CRA) to cut the devastating regulations hurting our citizens, our businesses, and our families in Ohio and states across this great nation.

In the moments before President Trump's Joint Address to Congress a few weeks back, the Wall Street Journal broke the news of Pacific Legal Foundation's project Red Tape Rollback.

Today, The Buckeye Institute is pleased to share our exciting role as a founding partner in this national effort to eliminate devastating regulations. Red Tape Rollback is a cooperative venture and the result of a partnership of several prominent national think tanks, policy organizations, and the oldest public interest law firm on the right to reduce regulations through the use of the CRA.

Former Congressman David McIntosh (now of The Club for Growth) and his old friend and Capitol Hill staffer Todd Gaziano (now of Pacific Legal Foundation) who wrote the Congressional Review Act were keen to employ this tactic to dismantle the foundation of the regulatory state. The Buckeye Institute has joined them in identifying regulations that are problematic in the states, for small businesses, and families, and we are leading the charge to eliminate them for good.

Why is the CRA so powerful? As explained on Red Tape Rollback:

1) Agencies are required to report agency rules, policy memoranda, guidance documents, dear colleague letters, etc. to Congress. Congress then has the option of disapproving these regulations within 60 days. Here is the kicker: there are thousands of these rules that went unreported during the Obama administration. Are you even surprised? What about the filibuster, you ask? **We don't need no stinkin' filibuster.** In fact, the CRA provides that the filibuster doesn't even apply to the review of these nasty regulations!

2) You say that Congress is a bunch of do-nothings who take feather dusters to do their deep spring cleaning? We can't argue with you there, but under the CRA, rules do not take effect until the reports are sent to Congress. So the Trump administration could indeed abandon these regulations without Congress.

What can you do to assist this effort? Go to Red Tape Rollback. Find the regulation that has been harming your business or family, and check to see whether it was ever reported to Congress. If it was not, enter it on that same webpage so that we can add it to the list of regulations to repeal. If you'd rather not get your hands dirty, but prefer to help us do this spring cleaning, we can always use financial support. This effort is costly in terms of time, staff, and research, and we cannot do it without your help.

The Buckeye Institute's President Robert Alt said of this project, "In states across the country, the proliferation of problematic regulations has slowed economic growth, killed jobs, and oppressed small businesses and families. Ironically, we now know that the same Washington government agencies promulgating these onerous regulations did not follow the rules themselves. That ends today. The Buckeye Institute is proud to be a founding partner of the Red Tape Rollback project to ensure that the Congressional Review Act is vigorously enforced, agencies follow the rules that Congress put into place, and that job-killing and other harmful regulations are eliminated expeditiously."

Boom.

###

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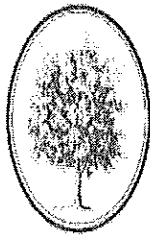
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:47 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Reminder: Buckeye's lunchtime seminar on health care policy tomorrow at noon



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

Do you remember when we announced that a nasty bout of strep throat had gone.... wait for it... **viral**... among our staff and their progeny a few weeks ago? And, accordingly, we postponed our lunchtime seminar on health care policy to spare our guests the illness?

Well, we write to remind you that we are all healthy and ready to host the rescheduled seminar TOMORROW (Tuesday, March 28) as promised at noon. We hope you can join us for the timely talk on health care policy given by The Buckeye Institute's own Executive Vice President Rea S. Hederman Jr. His presentation is entitled, "Obamacare: What's next for the states in the new administration?"

Hederman's innovative work in health care policy has focused on how states can regain control of health care markets. Hederman has worked with national and state policy organizations as well as national and state legislators in promoting free-market ideas to reduce health care costs for individuals and the government, and is the co-author of the nationally-distributed "Returning Health Care Power to the States."

When: Buckeye's lunchtime seminars begin promptly at noon and end by 1:30 at the latest (often earlier).

Where: The Buckeye Institute's conference room on the 11th floor of the Key Bank building located on the corner of East Broad Street and 3rd downtown Columbus at 88 East Broad Street, which is directly across from the Statehouse/Capitol building. If you need help finding parking downtown, [click here](#).

Background: The Buckeye Institute's policy experts regularly share their insight and wisdom with Buckeye's staff and interns over lunch--just one of the many perks working at Buckeye affords. Last fall, we decided to try something experimental. We began offering our supporters the opportunity to attend these formerly staff-and-interns-only lunchtime seminars. We just asked that you let us know that you are coming (email Patrick@BuckeyeInstitute.org) so we can set out the right number of chairs, bring your own lunch, and show up on time so as not to interrupt the speaker.

#

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From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:51 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Conference Committee Approves Transportation Budget with 4-2 Vote](#)
- [Poll Finds 2016 Ideological Divisions Remain among Ohio Voters](#)
- [Kasich Addresses AHCA Withdrawal on CNN Sunday, Calls Divisiveness 'Pathetic'](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Agenda with Rare Lack of Holds from Legislators](#)
- [JCARR Hears Rules Changes on Shaving, Hunting, Case Management, Casinos](#)
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- [Kasich Administration Announces \\$4.3 million in New Tax Credits](#)
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- [Stateline: Lawmakers Look to Curb Foreign Influence in State Elections](#)
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Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

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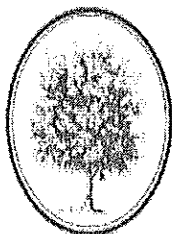
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:50 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: The piggies aren't little anymore--they're hogging the state budget



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2017

(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Releases Brand New Piglet Book and Calls on Legislators to Cut the Pork From State Budget

COLUMBUS, OHIO---What time is it? Ohio's biennial budget time. And what does that mean for all of us budget hawks, policy wonks, and pork haters? Today is the special day that happens only once every two years.

If you are fiscally prudent, if you love puppies and college football, if you have a place in your heart for America and her states, today is the day you have been waiting for: The Buckeye Institute has released its brand new updated-for-this-budget-cycle Piglet Book--ta da!

Ohio legislators, be advised, our report is chalk full of great ideas--and you can steal them *gratis*. We won't worry about copyright violations or whether you cite us as your source. Claim them as your own. Feel free to become the heroic spending slashers to put all former spending slashers to shame. We will cheer you on with every dollar removed from the budget. And best of all? You will sleep better and become morally richer knowing you did the right thing for the Buckeye state and its taxpayers. In fact, a colleague of yours, Ohio Senator Kris Jordan noted, "The Buckeye Institute's biennial Piglet Book is always a great

resource for policymakers looking to cut back on unnecessary and often wasteful spending. I take its recommendations seriously and urge my colleagues to do the same."

Shucks, I don't think we could have said it better ourselves.

The Buckeye Institute's appropriately-named report analyzes wasteful spending in Ohio's biennial budget proposals, and cites projects that unwisely waste taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. Some of these projects should be eliminated entirely and others make sense to be left for private businesses and philanthropic organizations to fund instead.

A state's budget should reflect the priorities of its citizens. Too often, special interests alter the budget in harmful ways with crony handouts and questionable projects. The more a government spends, the more taxes it has to collect, which hurt small businesses and families most.

The goal of each edition of our Piglet Book is ultimately to limit state spending to essential services and state priorities, and--by way of a first step--to identify and expose the worst of the worst. If Ohio simply contained the growth of its spending to 2-2.5 percent annually, it could save over \$3.7 billion. What would you do with that kind of cash? I think I'd literally go to Disney World. That's without cutting anything, just simply limiting the growth of spending. Imagine the savings from actually cutting some aspects of the budget. Of course, we still need to address the elephant in the room, what Governor Voinovich once called the "Pac-Man" of the state budget--Medicaid--if we want to get our house in order financially.

The author of the report, The Buckeye Institute's Senior Policy Analyst Greg R. Lawson said, "The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book details specific spending programs that should be cut or eliminated in order to keep our state's budget under control. Too much government spending, even on well-meaning projects, reduces our prosperity and hurts taxpayers where it counts."

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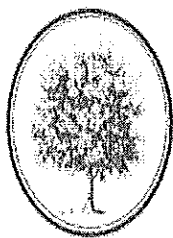
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2017 5:31 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: The winner is.... Lisa Gates (Buckeye announces new VP of Comms)

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Names Lisa Gates as New VP of Communications

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute announced on Thursday that after more than 70 candidates applied for the position, Lisa A. Gates has been selected as Buckeye's new Vice President of Communications. Gates, an Ohio native, will oversee all of the Institute's communications and marketing efforts.

"We are pleased to have Lisa join our team and bring her tremendous experience back home to Ohio," said Robert Alt, President and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Lisa's expertise will help The Buckeye Institute promote sound free-market policies and solutions in Ohio and states across the country."

Gates has more than 20 years of experience in communications, media outreach, crisis communications, message development, public relations, marketing and branding.

Most recently, Gates served as Director of Communications at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit organization that supports democratic actors around the world as they build democratic institutions and accountable, transparent governments. While at IRI, Gates oversaw all communications, marketing and branding efforts for the Institute and its 60 plus programs worldwide and implemented a comprehensive communications strategy that helped the Institute establish a strong brand that is recognized as an expert in the field of democratic governance, women's empowerment, and youth leadership.

During her time at IRI, Gates also served as an election monitor and coordinated communications efforts for 21 international election observation missions in Afghanistan, Egypt, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nigeria, Somaliland, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

Prior to joining IRI, Gates served as Public Affairs Officer and Director of the International Press Center for the Coalition Provisional Authority and the U.S. Mission in Baghdad, Iraq. In that role, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the International Press Center and served as a spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy and the Coalition Provisional Authority on women's issues and the Iraq Stock Exchange.

Gates previously served as spokesperson for then-Governor Jeb Bush of Florida. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Gates got her start in public affairs working in the communications office of then-Governor George V. Voinovich of Ohio.

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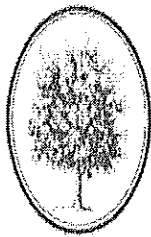
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To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: May 3 event: criminal justice reform all stars including former OSU running back Maurice Clarett

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



**U.S. JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK**



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

SMART JUSTICE

THE ALL-STAR SERIES

You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions---only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

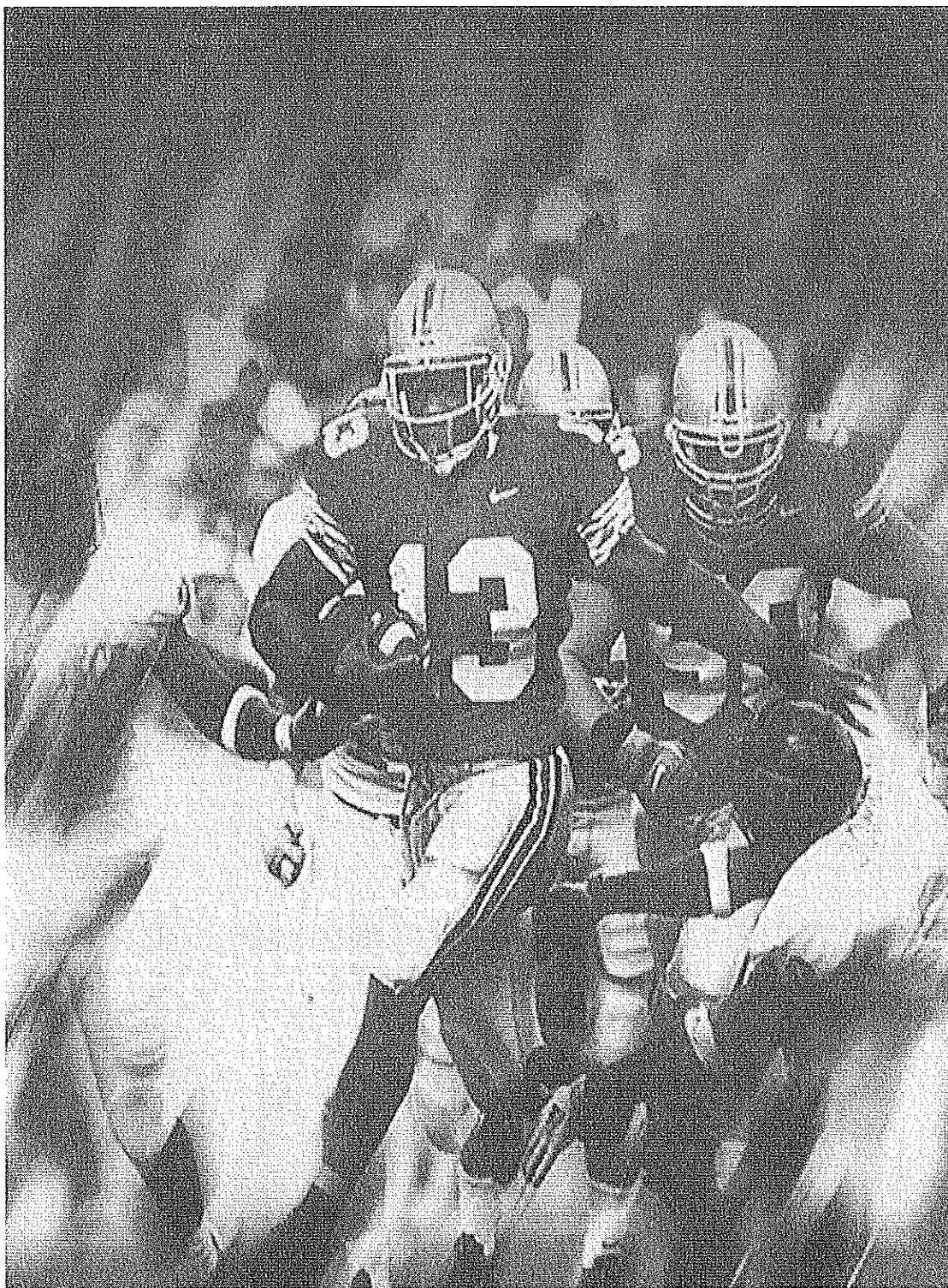
We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

REGISTER HERE



###

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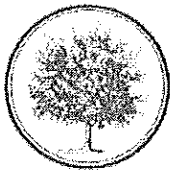
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 4:31 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: We Found the \$800 Million State Lawmakers Need to Cut from Ohio's Budget

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Dear Friends,

By now you've heard that Ohio's revenues are falling short and state lawmakers have announced they need to cut \$800 million from the budget. Given additional spending and revenue shortfalls, which we should anticipate, the legislature should actually be cutting **\$1 billion**.

But don't worry, your Buckeye Institute has a solution... and it can be found in our famous 2017 Piglet Book! Today, we rolled out a series of recommendations policymakers could look at to save taxpayer dollars and cut the needed money.

Each day this week we will be sharing fun graphics on Facebook and Twitter highlighting our ideas, so make sure to check those out and share with your friends and followers!

In rolling out these recommendations, Robert Alt, our President and CEO, said:

"The reality is, Office of Budget and Management revenue estimates have been too optimistic and policymakers need to cut \$1 billion from the proposed state budget. Cutting \$1 billion will offset additional spending and revenue shortfalls, which we should anticipate. The good news is, Buckeye has a blueprint - our Piglet Book - that can guide the legislature as it looks for needed cuts."

So what are our recommendations you ask? Could one of you provide a drum roll please? They are:

Recommendation #1

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Arts Council: Savings to Taxpayers: \$25.9 Million

The Ohio Arts Council receives taxpayer monies through income and sales tax revenue, which is then distributed to specifically-selected artists and galleries. While the work on the Arts Council has value, the government should not be an arbiter of culture. Artistic and cultural endeavors can and should be underwritten by donors giving voluntarily rather than by government fiat.

Recommendation #2

Slow the Rate of Growth in Education Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$208.7 Million

In FY16, Ohio spent \$10.5 billion funding the Department of Education. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$11.2 billion in FY18 and \$11.4 billion in FY19 for a total of \$22.6 billion. By slowing the rate of growth in education funding, Ohioans could save \$208.7 million.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$11.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$527.4 million over FY16) and \$11.3 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$748.9 million).

On education funding, Greg Lawson, our Senior Policy Analyst, said:

"A quality education is about far more than simply throwing more money at the education bureaucracy. Simply slowing spending growth and shifting funding towards students rather than the 'system' can yield not only taxpayer savings, but more importantly-better educational outcomes for our students. It is time to start moving in this direction."

Recommendation #3

Eliminate Funding to the Ohioana Library Association: Savings to Taxpayers: \$595,228

While not a huge cost savings when compared to the budget killers of Medicaid and education funding, eliminating funding to private organizations, such as Ohioana Library adds up to real cost savings.

The Ohioana Library Association's work, while laudable, is not a core government service that requires taxpayer subsidies. As with the Ohio Arts Council, private individuals and the private sector should guide investment for this work.

Recommendation #4

Slow the Rate of Growth in Medicaid Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$1.6 Billion

More than two decades ago then-Governor George Voinovich called Medicaid the Pac-Man of Ohio's budget. It remains so today, eating up more than 47 percent of Ohio tax dollars.

In FY16, Ohio spent \$22.8 billion funding the Department of Medicaid. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$25 billion in FY18 and \$25.7 billion in FY19 for a total of \$50.7 billion. By slowing the rate of growth, Ohioans could save \$1.6 billion.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$24.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$1.4 billion over FY16) and \$24.9 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$2.1 billion).

Of Medicaid funding, Rea S. Hederman Jr., our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, said:

"When Governor Kasich released his proposed budget, I previously said of Medicaid funding, 'Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will gobble up an increasing amount of state resources and crowd out other essential investments and priorities.' Revenue shortfalls have exacerbated that situation. It is time for Ohio to get serious about controlling Medicaid spending and implementing innovative proposals, such as using 1332 waivers to gain greater flexibility under Obamacare."

Recommendation #5

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Grape Industries: Savings to Taxpayers: \$2.4 Million

Ohioans pay to market Ohio wines through a five-cent tax on each bottle of wine, something wine producers should pay for themselves.

Taxpayers should not be expected to pay for corporate welfare of any kind, and the government should not favor one business or industry over another. If a company or industry makes a good product, people will buy it. The use of taxpayer money to support favored businesses is both ethically inappropriate and economically harmful.

These recommendations, along with others found in our Piglet Book, would save Ohio taxpayers **\$3.8 billion**, more than quadruple the needed \$800 million for which Governor Kasich and leaders in the Ohio House and Senate have called.

If you aren't already following us on social media, please check us out on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

And, as always, thank you for your continued support!

~ ~ ~

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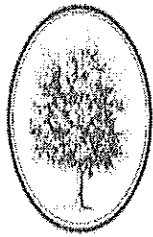
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 5:08 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: REMINDER MAY 3 EVENT: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

= A

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season. Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

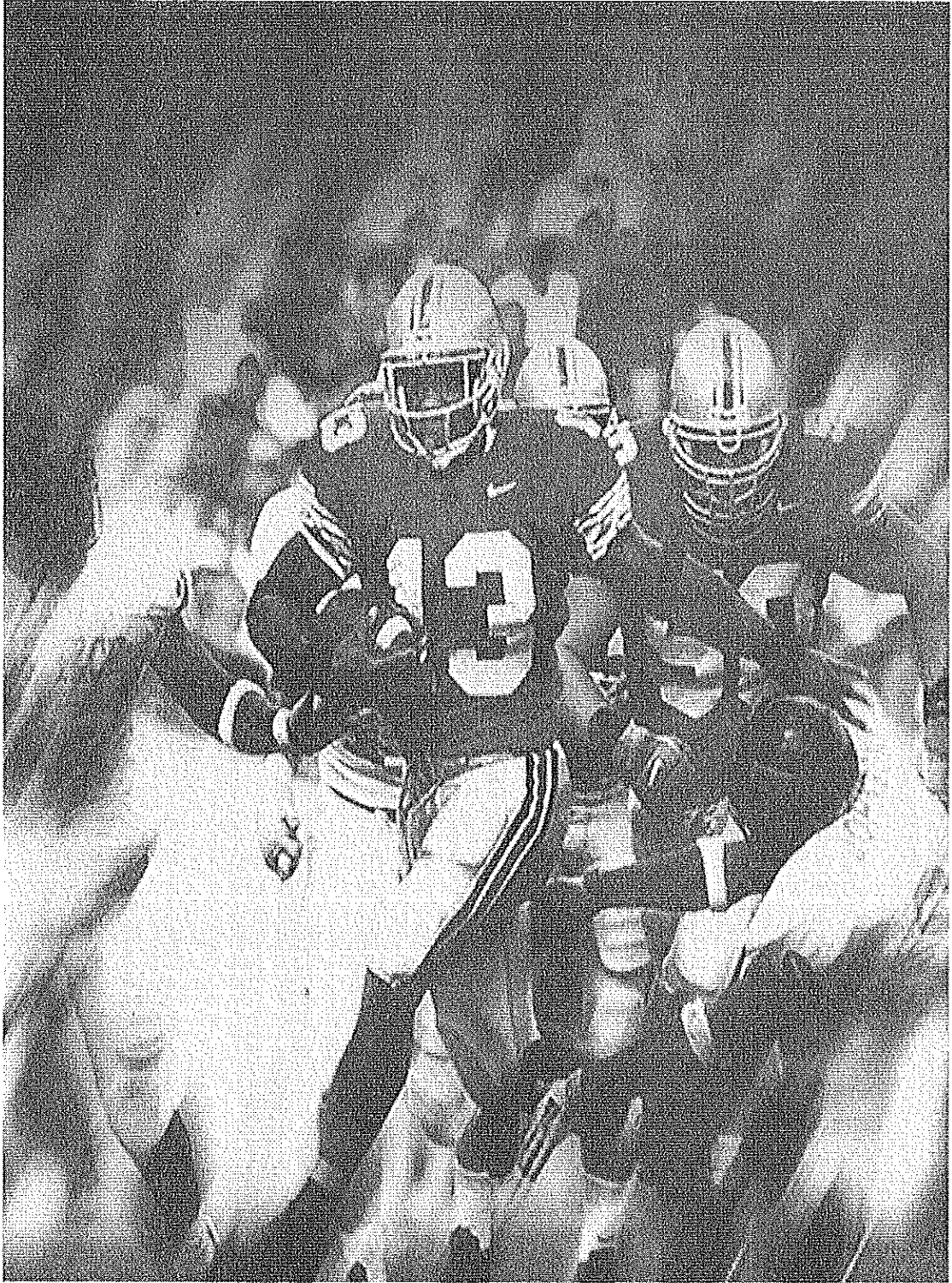
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

= A

Wednesday, May 3
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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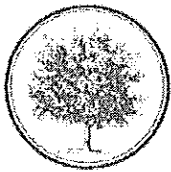
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: May Day Job Opening at Buckeye... and Ohio's Budgetary Mayday

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ladies and Gentlemen, we did not receive any baskets of goodies on our doorstep this morning. Yet we are still offering two gifts to the world today.

First, if you have ever dreamed you could be part of Buckeye's top notch team, and you have the skills and can-do attitude we require, today could be your lucky day: [Buckeye is hiring](#).

= A

With May flowers and barely-observed holidays comes new growth in our organization. We told you a few weeks ago about our impressive new VP of Comms Lisa Gates, and now--hot off the press--we can announce that Quinn Beeson is joining us later this week as Buckeye's new Economic Research Analyst.

However, for your May Day enjoyment (in lieu of that lovely basket for which you were hoping), we have [another position that we just opened today for your consideration](#). Take a look, send it on to anyone you think might be a good fit, or apply yourself. We are searching for the best person we can find and expect a competitive process, but we hope

that it might be you who wins the position! Feel free to encourage others to apply as well.

In other news, last week the Ohio House passed its version of the state budget... which, in the words of Buckeye's own Greg Lawson, "will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform." That's not our gift to you.

Our second special May Day gift to the world is that Greg pulls no punches in his analysis of the House version in a new blog found here: *House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform*.

We recommend enjoying it along with an aptly named cocktail!

There were some bright spots in the House budget, but unfortunately it failed to cut the \$800 million that the Governor and legislative leadership recently said was necessary. And the \$2.5 billion of "savings" it did find can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand. If you took a small sip of that aforementioned cocktail for every dollar that... wait, no. Don't do that.

If only a nationally recognized policy organization had offered a blueprint on where cost savings could be found in the budget... ahem, see our Piglet Book!

Fortunately, the House version is not the final budget, so policymakers still have time to take bold action. If you love policy analysis and budget reviews as much as we do, you'll want to read Greg's full analysis here.

Happy May Day to one and all!

#

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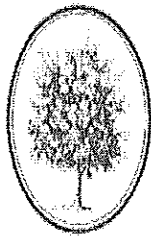
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 4:35 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: JOIN US AT 5:00PM: Join Us & Former OSU Running Back Maurice Clarett for a Conversation on "Smart on Crime" Policies

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You're invited!

With the Ohio House passing its version of the budget, we know you are looking for something to do Wednesday evening.

= A

You're in luck, we have the perfect evening planned.

The Buckeye Institute, along with U.S. Justice Action Network, are hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

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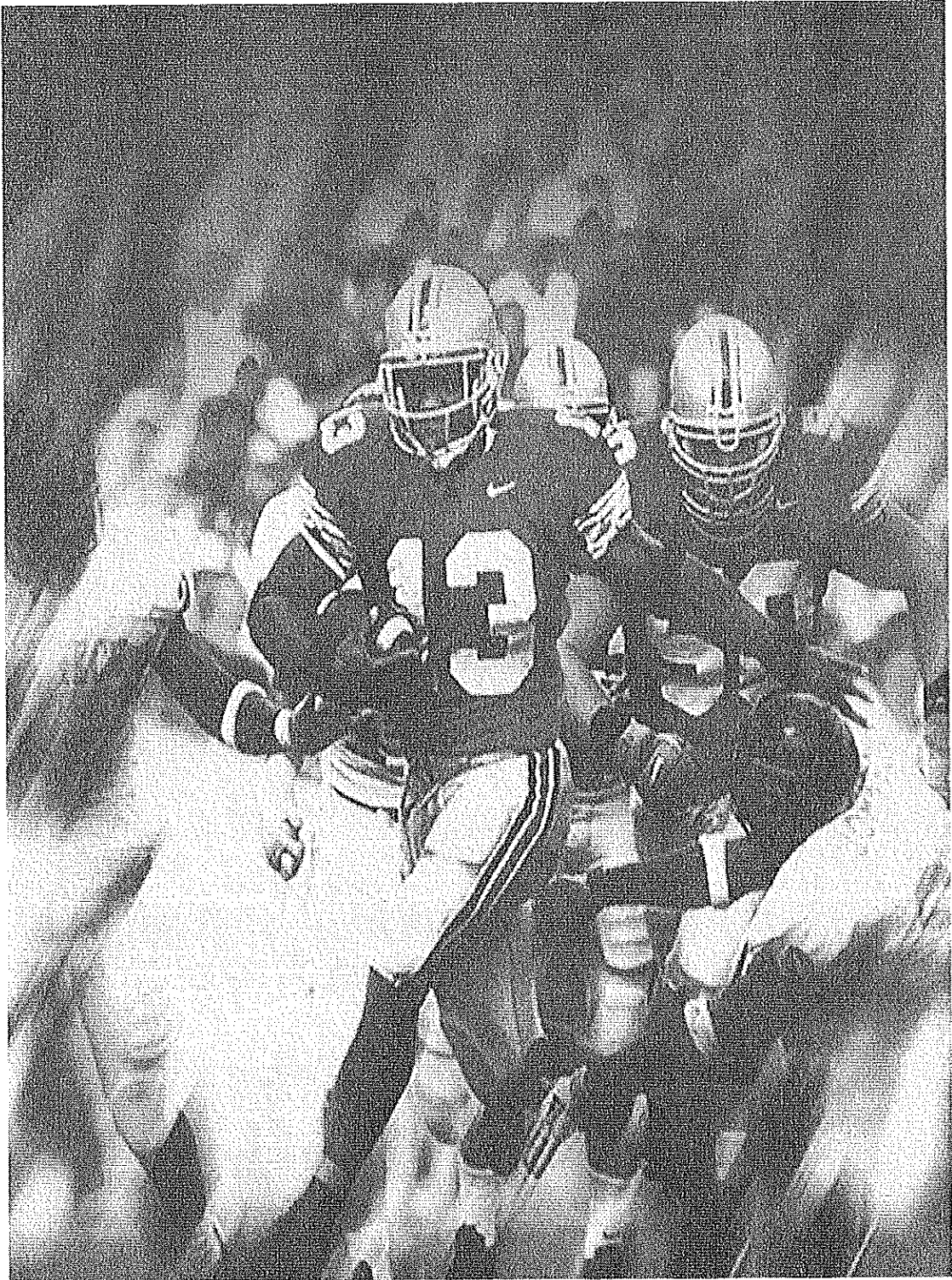
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 6:50 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Buckeye, Fighting to Protect the U.S. Constitution

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

The **Red Tape Rollback** campaign, which **The Buckeye Institute** is a proud partner of, is defending the U.S. Constitution and ensuring that unaccountable government bureaucrats aren't imposing burdensome regulations on citizens.

As a part of this campaign, the **Pacific Legal Foundation** is defending the Congressional Review Act in the case *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*. You can read their news release below and learn more about Red Tape Rollback campaign at www.redtaperollback.com.

PLF STEPS UP TO DEFEND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IN COURT

*As a leading CRA champion, PLF will litigate against an
environmental group's confused constitutional challenge*

Anchorage, Alaska; May 4, 2017: Pacific Legal Foundation has just stepped forward to defend the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the 1996 statute that allows Congress to rein in bureaucracies by voiding harmful regulations.

PLF is the first of two groups to move to intervene against a federal lawsuit by an environmental activist group - the Center for Biological Diversity - which claims, astonishingly, that Congress and the president violate the Constitution when they pass a law that rescinds a bureaucracy's regulation. With its motion to intervene, PLF has also filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that CBD's challenge has no basis in the Constitution, the Congressional Review Act, or court precedent and should be immediately booted out of court. PLF is the only group in the litigation that has sought a dismissal.

"CBD's lawsuit seeks to turn the Constitution on its head, placing unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats above Congress," said PLF attorney Jonathan Wood. "Under our Constitution, administrative agencies only have power that Congress chooses to delegate to them. Congress is free to limit its delegation of power as it sees fit. What Congress gives, it can take away, or curtail. Using the Congressional Review Act to strike down an agency's regulatory decrees is an example of that constitutional principle in action."

Under the CRA, agencies must submit every rule they adopt to Congress for review. Congress then has a brief time to use expedited procedures to enact a resolution of disapproval and send it to the president for his signature. Congress and President Trump have used the CRA 13 times to void Obama Administration rules. CBD's lawsuit focuses on the rescinding of a regulation against hunting and trapping of predator species in Alaska's national refuges - a restriction that interfered with the state's ability to manage wildlife and outlawed responsible hunting practices, undermining opportunities to responsibly hunt for food or pursue income from guided hunts.

In seeking to intervene in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, in defense of the CRA's constitutionality, PLF represents itself along with several key hunting organizations and individuals. They include: Alaska Outdoor Council, Big Game Forever, and Alaska Master Guides Kurt Whitehead and Joe Letarte, both of whom also hunt in their personal time.

CRA is fully consistent with the Constitution

"Schoolhouse Rock has taught generations of children how a bill becomes a law under the Constitution," said Todd Gaziano, PLF's DC Director and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law, as well as the director of PLF's Red Tape Rollback project. "CBD could use a refresher. When a majority of both houses of Congress pass a bill disapproving an agency rule and the president signs it, we call that a law, and this applies as much to legislation passed under the CRA as to any other form of legislation. Laws enacted using the Congressional Review Act's procedures are fully consistent with the Constitution."

PLF's intervention in this litigation reflects its established role as a leading CRA champion. The Red Tape Rollback project, founded and overseen by PLF, is a multipronged program to educate Congress and the public on dynamic ways to deploy the CRA against regulatory overreach. A significant coalition of think tanks and public interest groups has joined this project, including The Club for Growth, The Heritage Foundation, The Buckeye Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and State Policy Network as Founding Partners; and Cause of Action Institute, R Street, Independent Women's Forum, and Center of the American Experiment as Partners.

"The Congressional Review Act is essential to restoring our elected representatives to their proper role overseeing the administrative state," Gaziano said. "As the foremost independent advocate for strategic use of the CRA, and as a leading litigator against regulatory abuses by the administrative state in general, PLF brings a unique interest and expertise to this litigation. For this reason, PLF's intervention is more than appropriate - it is essential."

The case is *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*.

Case Documents

- [Motion to Intervene](#)
- [Motion to Dismiss](#)
- [Declaration of Gaziano for PLF](#)

About Pacific Legal Foundation

Pacific Legal Foundation, America's most powerful ally for justice, litigates in courts nationwide for limited government, property rights, individual liberty, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations. PLF represents all clients free of charge.

###

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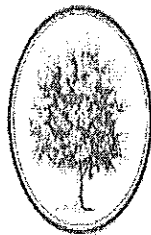
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:30 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: Seasoning justice with mercy--and our #SensibleJustice event May 31

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

While the kids talk, tweet, and text in abbreviations that don't translate well into adult-speak, I sometimes wonder whether words matter anymore the way they did when I was in school studying Papa Shakespeare's work: that whole chestnut about a rose going by another name? Do our students even read Shakespeare to get that reference these days? Have they seen the Merchant of Venice to understand the concept of seasoning justice with mercy?

When The Buckeye Institute began its campaign in earnest 3 years ago to reform criminal justice laws in Ohio one by one, we didn't have a clever title or marketing name or the right words, if you will, to describe our project. We simply set out to get things done and took action toward our goal. And the results of our efforts were extraordinary and remain unmatched by any state in the entire country.

To highlight a few of the reforms we are working on right now, we are co-hosting an event next week (on Wednesday, see details below) and have come up with the right hash tag and title to capture what we are setting about to do: Sensible Justice. Incarcerate those who are dangerous to society, such as

violent or sexual predators, and give those whose addictions are the primary cause of their illegal activity the chance at redemption and rehabilitation in what is indisputably the smarter, more financially efficient, and more seasoned way to reduce crime.

Perhaps we should have named our campaign "seasoned justice" to borrow a phrase that Shakespeare coined so eloquently through Portia's statement to Shylock:

*The quality of mercy is not strained.
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed:
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest. It becomes
The thronèd monarch better than his crown.
His scepter shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings,
But mercy is above this scepter'd sway.
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings.
It is an attribute to God himself.
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.*

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, May 31, for a roundtable discussion moderated by Buckeye's own Criminal Justice Fellow Daniel Dew at the Statehouse in Columbus to hear what actual practitioners in Ohio are doing to creatively and effectively reduce crime rates and recidivism, keep our communities safe, and enact sensible reforms. And, hey, there's an open bar. So let's join together to toast our extraordinary progress on criminal justice reforms in Ohio as well as Papa Shakespeare's uncanny mastery of the English language. Here's to The Buckeye Institute working with all of you to add dashes of mercy into our justice system.

Law, Order, and Sensible Justice Roundtable

HOSTED BY: COALITION FOR PUBLIC
SAFETY, THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE AND
THE OHIO JUSTICE & POLICY CENTER

Wednesday, May 31
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse Atrium
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

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= A

Featuring:

Senator John Eklund

= A

Ohio State Senate, District 18

Carter Stewart

Former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio

Captian Howard Rahtz (Ret.)
Cincinnati Police Department

Judge John W. "Tim" Rudduck
Clinton County Common Please Court

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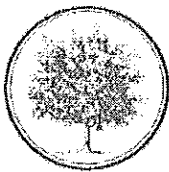
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: You down with ESAs? Our new report explains why you should be

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Questionable 1990s songs aside, moments ago, The Buckeye Institute released its latest report, *Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*, written by Buckeye's own expert Greg R. Lawson and The Heritage Foundation's Lindsey Burke.

If you have children, hope to have children one day, like children even a little bit, know any children in your neighborhood, care about the future, or simply hate government-prescribed one-size-fits-all education systems, you will love our work on this issue. Our in-house education policy wonk, Greg Lawson, has produced this **ESA magnum opus**. To say Greg and the rest of us here at The Buckeye Institute are down with ESAs and reducing government inefficiency is like saying Hillary Clinton is down with pantsuits and sour grapes.

In other words, yeah, you know us.

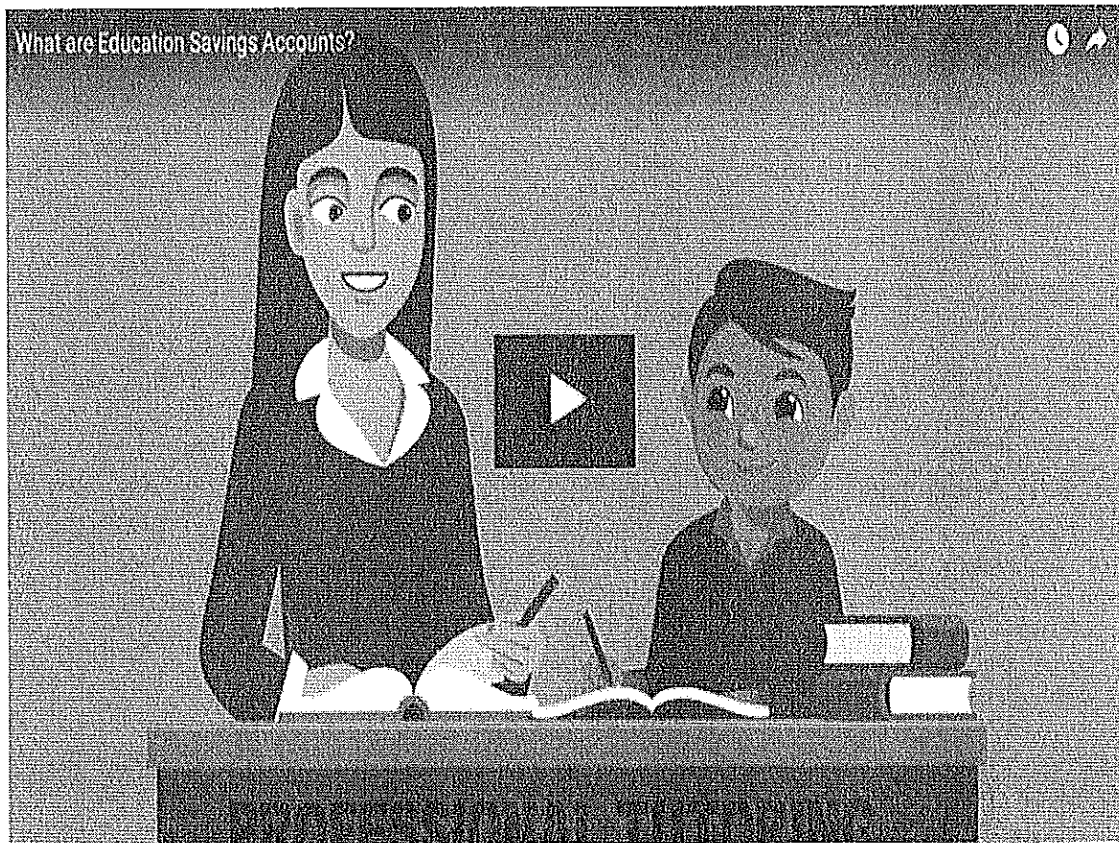
So pay respect to the future leaders of our nation and give this report a close read. Or, for those of you who struggle to finish longer newspaper paper articles, do yourself a favor and grab a cup of coffee or tea and make yourself comfortable. You're not going to want

to miss this timely new research paper. It breaks down the benefits of educational savings accounts (ESAs) and calls on Ohio policymakers to adopt this innovative tool that other states are now using to great effect, which gives parents the ability to pay for the education services that best meet their child's individual needs. Who could be opposed to that? North Korean tyrants?

"The ESA concept builds upon Ohio's successes with a variety of scholarship programs such as EdChoice and will ensure that Ohio's children receive the education they deserve," said Lawson. "It also provides additional incentives that propel Ohio's educational system forward from a 20th Century model into one nimble enough to meet the demands of the 21st Century."

Lawson and Burke also cite a number of studies that show how creating greater choice for parents also improves *public* school performance, all of which are encouraging and help underscore the empirical evidence for adopting ESAs in Ohio.

Let's work together to give our kids the education they deserve by pushing Ohio forward using ESAs. We have several more videos available on our social media (links below) and The Buckeye Institute's **website** in addition to this one below for those of you who prefer watching short clips to reading complex policy papers. Hey, just because you prefer visual learning doesn't mean you can't be down with ESAs too.



= A
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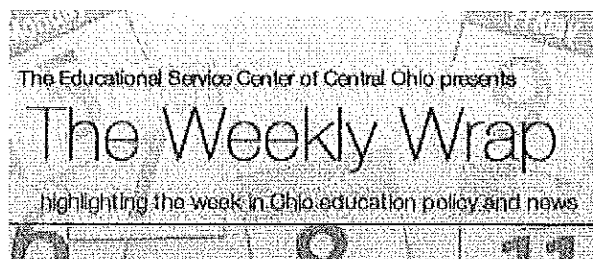
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Joseph Weitz

Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 11:20 AM

Subject: Weekly Wrap 6/2/17 - A service of the ESC of Central Ohio - Ohio ESSA Plan Update

Connect with us!



Week of June 2, 2017

Please let Joe know if you have questions, requests, or would like to be added to the distribution list. Thank you.

Note: There will be no Wrap the week of June 9th.

JUMP TO A SECTION

FEATURED ITEMS

OHIO

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[Education & Public Policy](#)

[Schools](#)

[Local Government](#)

[Reports](#)

NATIONAL/WORLD

[Federal/U.S. Department of Education](#)

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[Teacher Effectiveness](#)

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[Career- & Postsecondary-Readiness](#)
[Postsecondary](#)

[OHIO LEGISLATION UPDATE](#)
[House Bills](#)
[Senate Bills](#)

FEATURED ITEMS

OHIO ESSA PLAN UPDATE – *The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is posting draft sections of the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan to its website as each is reviewed by the State Board of Education. The Department also is accepting additional feedback from the public and plans to present its final revisions to the State Board at the July 10-11 meeting. The final plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in September and the state will transition to ESSA during the 2017-18 school year, as required by law.*

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Draft Sections of Template – ODE

- As draft sections are presented to the State Board for discussion, they will be posted to the document list below. We welcome additional feedback

Governors to Congress: Don't Shortchange Us on ESSA, Special Ed – EdWeek

- In a May 25 letter to the four top federal lawmakers responsible for funding the U.S. Department of Education, Gov. Brian Sandoval, R-Nev., and Gov. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., urged Congress to "prioritize investments" in programs related to the Every Student Succeeds Act, career and technical education, and elsewhere

States Struggle to Define Ineffective Teachers under ESSA – EdWeek

- Teacher evaluations—both their role and the mechanics of carrying them out are a politically fraught subject, and the Every Student Succeeds Act has kicked the dust up once again as states wrestle with how to comply with teacher-quality sections of the new law

Personalized Learning Could Get a Boost with Increased Local Control – Education Dive

- Federal and state policy seems to be opening the door to greater innovation at the school level

[BACK TO TOP](#)

OHIO

Central Ohio Schools

Kids' Learning Doesn't Have to Slide over Summer – Columbus Dispatch

- Summer is a time to try things that can't happen in a classroom, and even better, warding off academic atrophy doesn't have to cost much, if anything

CHILLICOTHE CITY SCHOOLS

City Schools Adjusting STEAM Plans – Chillicothe Gazette

- More students will have access to the new Chillicothe City Schools' Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Innovation Academy during the next school year than originally thought

Respect Initiative Returning for 2017-18 – Chillicothe Gazette

- The Chillicothe City Schools plans to continue its respect campaign into a second year in 2017-18, and while the hiring Tuesday of new varsity girls basketball coach Jeremy Beverly wasn't necessarily a part of it, he voiced the exact sentiment the district has been pushing

DELAWARE CITY SCHOOLS

Performance Audit Recommends \$4.6 Million in Savings for Delaware City School District

- The Delaware City School District in Delaware County could save nearly \$4.6 million based on recommendations of a performance audit released Thursday by Auditor o State Dave Yost

Delaware Schools Pursuing Levy This Fall – Delaware Gazette

- The Delaware City School District will be pursuing a levy to offset a deficit caused by state funding caps

DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS

Enrollment Capping: Continued Growth Means Building Limits to Return – This Week

- Although enrollment wasn't capped at any schools within Dublin City School District this school year, capping will return for the 2017-2018 school year

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Treasurer Valladares Leaving Gahanna-Jefferson for Newark Schools – This Week

- Julio Valladares, 14-year treasurer of the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, has announced he's leaving the district to become treasurer of Newark City School

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Three-Year Contract Would Include 1 Percent Annual Pay Bump for New Albany Teachers – Columbus Dispatch

- A tentative three-year contract that would increase base pay for teachers but save the district money on health plans in the New Albany-Plain School District has been reached between the district's Board of Education and the teachers union

OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Olentangy Plays 'Catch-Up,' Raises Lunch Prices – This Week

- Olentangy Local School District students will need to drop an extra dime at lunchtime next school year

TOLLES CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

Tolles Career & Technical Center Students Proven Ready for the Workplace – Madison Press

- While many graduates are eager to begin college, enter the workforce or the military, 32 Tolles Career & Technical Center students have proven themselves employable to 22 Madison County area companies

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Lanier Takes on Top Role at Central – This Week

- Thomas Lanier, Pickerington High School North's assistant principal, has been hired as Westerville Central High School's next leader

WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

Worthington Schools Could Be on Ballot in 2018 – This Week

- Worthington school district residents could see a levy request on their ballots as soon as November 2018

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Ohio Department of Education/State Board of Education

Testing Panel Closes In on Recommendations – Hannah

- The state panel assigned to recommend revisions and possible cutbacks in testing Tuesday zeroed in on their recommendations related to state assessments

Dates Set for 2018 State-Funded ACT and SAT – ODE

- State law requires schools to administer the state-funded ACT or SAT to all grade 11 students in the spring of the school year. Each year, districts and schools will select which test to administer to their juniors

June 16 Deadline to Ensure June Payment of CCIP/CRRS Claims – ODE

- Friday, June 16 is the last day to submit Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan claims and Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System claims to assure payment in June 2017

Grant Competition Now Open for Federal Charter Schools Program – ODE

- The federal Charter Schools Program grant competition for Fiscal Year 2018 is now open. The deadline for submitting an application is June 15, 2017, at 4:59 p.m.

Remediation-Free Scores for “New” SAT Set – ODE

- Students who took College Board's SAT after March 1, 2016, may use their scores to meet the college and career readiness pathway to graduation. A remediation-free score on the ACT or SAT is one option students may use to meet the test requirement for graduation. In March 2016, College Board administered a new SAT that uses a different test format, scoring model and score reports

State Disputes ACT's Invalidation of Hundreds of Tests – Hannah

- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is pressing ACT to provide scores for invalidated tests taken by an estimated 1,300 students in this year's first statewide administration of college readiness exams. The department is also pressing the matter with state procurement officials

ACT Official Won't Explain Ohio Students' Test Snafu Due to “Security” – Columbus Dispatch

- Hundreds of students in Reynoldsburg and several other Ohio school districts had their ACT scores invalidated, but state officials are urging the college-entrance-testing company to reconsider

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Draft Sections of Template – ODE

- As draft sections are presented to the State Board for discussion, they will be posted to the document list below. We welcome additional feedback

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Ohio School Finance & Budget

Budget Subcommittees Report to Finance Committee; Democrats Preview Amendments – Hannah

- Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) began the testimony, describing the 121 witnesses that appeared before the Primary and Secondary Education Finance Subcommittee. He said the big topic was about caps and guarantees, but there were also numerous other witnesses on career tech, education tech or tech prep, the latter on which he said they learned much. His subcommittee also took testimony on school choice, charters and independent schools, and ESCs and RESA

Obhof Expects to Fill Bigger Budget Shortfall – Hannah

- While revenue results for May aren't expected for another few days, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) told reporters Thursday that he expects the Senate will be having to fill a bigger budget shortfall than the \$800 million previously announced

Senate Eyes Changes to Medicaid, School Funding – Columbus Dispatch

- Among its budget changes, the Ohio Senate is not expected to force the Kasich administration to ask permission before spending any money on Medicaid expansion, and is looking to reduce the number of schools facing funding cuts

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Ohio Education & Public Policy

State Control of Lorain Schools Aims to Be Partnership, Not a "Hijack" – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- John Kasich's new state intervention system for "failing" school districts started its oversight of the Lorain schools with none of the resentment and opposition that has plagued similar efforts in Youngstown

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Ohio Schools

Ohio School District Fights High Chronic Absenteeism Rate – AP/Columbus Dispatch

- An Ohio school district is fighting chronic absenteeism rates that see nearly one in four students missing multiple days of school a year. About 24 percent of students in Lorain city schools in northern Ohio are chronically absent, meaning students miss about 18 days a year

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Ohio Local Government

Dems Say State, Local Governments Needs Fresh Start – Hannah

- The state needs to repair its relationship with municipalities after years of shifting the tax burden to local governments, Democratic city leaders said

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Ohio Reports

Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio – Buckeye Institute

- Education Savings Accounts (ESA) represent the next wave of school choice and have been embraced across the country. ESAs are specialized accounts administered by the state on behalf of parents and may only be spent on certain educational products or services. ESAs empower parents to customize their child's education by giving them control over how to spend the state paid share of their child's education funding. ESAs also provide incentives for parents to find the best education options at competitive price

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NATIONAL/WORLD

Federal & US Department of Education

Trump Budget Cuts Aimed at Safety-Net Programs Worries Advocates for Minority Communities – AP

- It would defund and cut at least 10 percent of key civil rights enforcement positions across the government, including positions at the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Legal Services Corporation, which helped more than 2

million low-income individuals with legal representation last year, advocates said

Governors to Congress: Don't Shortchange Us on ESSA, Special Ed – EdWeek

- In a May 25 letter to the four top federal lawmakers responsible for funding the U.S. Department of Education, Gov. Brian Sandoval, R-Nev., and Gov. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., urged Congress to "prioritize investments" in programs related to the Every Student Succeeds Act, career and technical education, and elsewhere

Trump Budget Draws Ire, Tepid Support from School Choice World – EdWeek

- Prominent players in the school choice world are hardly mooning over Trump's plans to sink \$1.4 billion into private and public school choice

USDOE Launches New IDEA Website – USDOE

- Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos directed the Department to expedite the development of a new, updated and more robust site specific to the IDEA after the Department's Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004 (Legacy) site experienced a prolonged outage in February due to technical issues

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Education Policy & Finance

7th Circuit Appeals Court Rules for Transgender Student on Restroom Use – EdWeek

- A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld an injunction requiring a Wisconsin school district to allow a transgender high school student to use the boys restroom, ruling that Title IX and the U.S. Constitution's equal-protection clause support the student who was born female, but now identifies as male

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Standards & Assessments

Is Your Child Showing Grit? School Report Cards Rate Students? 9 Soft Skills – EdWeek

- Where report cards may have once had a handwritten teacher's note saying a student "plays well with others," parents in some districts are now more likely to see a box that shows whether their child performs at grade level in such areas as "relationship skills"

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Teacher Effectiveness

States Struggle to Define Ineffective Teachers under ESSA – EdWeek

- Teacher evaluations—both their role and the mechanics of carrying them out—are a politically fraught subject, and the Every Student Succeeds Act has kicked the dust up once again as states wrestle with how to comply with teacher-quality sections of the new law

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Personalized Learning Frameworks

Personalized Learning Could Get a Boost with Increased Local Control – Education Dive

- Federal and state policy seems to be opening the door to greater innovation at the school level

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Charter Schools

Charter School Funding: Inequity in the City – University of Arkansas Department of Education Reform

- This is the first study of funding inequities to concentrate on revenue disparities between charters and traditional public schools where charters are most common metropolitan areas across the country. The 15 urban areas that inform our study include Atlanta, Boston, Camden, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, New Orleans, New York City, Oakland, San Antonio, Tulsa, and Washington

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School Improvement

Start with the Facts: Denver Public Schools 2017 – A+ Colorado

- This report explores performance data from the past four years, showing that Denver has moved to the middle of the pack of Colorado districts. This next decade of work in Denver Public Schools will require that the district move from average to great. This will be even more challenging, and require collaboration and commitment from the district and the entire Denver community to ensure that all of our children receive an excellent education. It

is no longer about whether the district has these systems in place; it is about the efficacy of these systems and how equitable they are

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Dropout Prevention & Re-Engaging Youth

What We're Missing: A Descriptive Analysis of Part-Day Absenteeism in Secondary School – AERA Open

- Our results extend and modify the extant findings on absenteeism that have been based almost exclusively on full-day absenteeism, missing class-by-class absences. Notably, part-day absenteeism is responsible for as many classes missed as full-day absenteeism, raising chronic absenteeism from 9% to 24% of secondary-grades students. Incorporating part-day absences sharply increases the chronic absenteeism gap between underrepresented minority students and their peers

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Mental Health & Wellness

School Lunch Quality and Academic Performance 50 National Bureau of Economic Research

- Students at schools that contract with a healthy school lunch vendor score higher on CA state achievement tests, with larger test score increases for students who are eligible for reduced price or free school lunches. We do not find any evidence that healthier school lunches lead to a decrease in obesity rates

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Early Learning

Free Play for Flashcards? New Study Nods to More Rigorous Preschools – New York Times

- The study found that by the end of kindergarten, children who had attended one year of "academic-oriented preschool" outperformed peers who had attended less academic-focused preschools by, on average, the equivalent of two and a half months of learning in literacy and math

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Career- and Postsecondary-Readiness

Is Your Child Showing Grit? School Report Cards Rate Students? 9 Soft Skills – EdWeek

- Where report cards may have once had a handwritten teacher's note saying a student "plays well with others," parents in some districts are now more likely to see a box that shows whether their child performs at grade level in such areas as "relationship skills"

Building Competencies for Careers – Center on Education Policy

- This report draws on information from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Information Network (O*NET) to better understand the value of deeper learning competencies in the labor market. O*NET uses surveys of employees and occupational experts to determine the important characteristics and requirements of more than 900 occupations. CEP researchers and other experts "linked= 2 the knowledge, skills, abilities and work styles required for a diverse sample of 300-plus O*NET occupations to the deeper learning competencies as defined by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The report finds that students will be better prepared for fast-growing jobs if they develop academic mindsets, learn how to communicate effectively, and take an analytical approach to solving problems

Second Thoughts about Higher Education Decisions – Inside Higher Ed

- Most former college students say they would change either their major, college attended or credential pursued if they could do it all over again, survey finds

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Postsecondary

Second Thoughts about Higher Education Decisions – Inside Higher Ed

- Most former college students say they would change either their major, college attended or credential pursued if they could do it all over again, survey finds

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Ohio Legislation Update

(Recent bill action in RED. Signed into law by Governor in GREEN.)

HOUSE

HB3 DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Christina Hagan) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB8 PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident

STATUS: Passed by House, Vote 95-2

HB14 AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION (Rep. Kathleen Clyde) To require that eligible persons in certain government and school databases be automatically registered to vote or have their registrations updated automatically unless those persons decline and to expand how a voter may register or update their registration through the online voter registration system

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB21 COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION (Rep. Steve Hambley) Regarding verification of community school enrollments

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB37 SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES (Rep. Steve Arndt) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB40 GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (Rep. Jonathan Dever, Rep. Dave Greenspan) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database

Status: House State & Local Government Committee

HB47STUDENTS IN MILITARY (Rep. John Boccieri) To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB49OPERATING BUDGET (Rep. Ryan Smith) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget

STATUS: Passed by House, Vote 58-36

HB51DEPARTMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE (Rep. Keith Faber) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review

STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee – Reported out as amended

HB53PUBLIC EMPLOYEES-MEMBER DUES (Rep. John Becker) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit public employers from requiring public employees to join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit an employee organization from being required to represent public employees who are not members of the employee organization, and to make an appropriation

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB58CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Marilyn Slaby) To require instruction in cursive handwriting

STATUS: Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB66TENURED TEACHING REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Ron Young) To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester

STATUS: Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB74INCREASE COLLEGE TAX DEDUCTION (Rep. Stephen Huffman, Rep. Theresa Gavarone) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to the state's 529 college savings program from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per beneficiary per year

STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB77SICK-CHILD CARE LICENSURE (Rep. Wes Retherford) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers

STATUS: House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB80SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION (Rep. Sarah LaTourette, Rep. Kent Smith) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions

STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

HB87COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS (Rep. Kristina Roegner) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB89AUGUST SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes

STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB98CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Kristin Boggs) Regarding the presentation of career information to students

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB102 SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM (Rep. Andrew Brenner) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB103 FISCAL EMERGENCY PROVISIONS (Rep. William Reineke) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision

STATUS: Passed by House, Vote 96-1

HB108 INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT ACT (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Robert McColley) To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act"

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB110 COLLEGE CREDIT APPRENTICESHIPS (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Bill Dean) To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB118 TAX COMPLAINT DISMISSAL (Rep. Derek Merrin) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner

STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Ways & Means Committee

HB124 VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TAX LEVY (Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Rick Carfagna) To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory

STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Ways & Means Committee

HB129 SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR (Rep. Kent Smith, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years

STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee

HB134 SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Darrell Kick) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district

STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee – Reported out as amended

HB163 PREVAILING WAGE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (Rep. Kristina Roegner, Rep. Craig Riedel) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects

STATUS: House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB166 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REVISIONS (Rep. William Reineke, Rep. Bob Cupp) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

STATUS: House High Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB170 COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (Rep. Rick Carfagna, Rep. Mike Duffey) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; to create a competitive technology grant program for the 2018-2019 school year; and to make an appropriation

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB176 SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (Rep. Andrew Thompson) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB179 IMMIGRATION LAW COMPLIANCE (Rep. Candice Keller) To require state and local authorities to cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of immigration laws, to prohibit a local government that fails to do so from receiving certain state funds, to provide for the removal of officers of a local government that fails to do so, and to declare an emergency

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB181 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS (Rep. Ron Hood, Rep. Tom Brinkman) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB186 COLLEGE TAX DEDUCTION (Rep. John Rogers, Rep. Gary Scherer) To enact the "Blair Deduction" to allow an individual obtaining a postsecondary degree or credential from an eligible educational institution to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses

STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB200 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (Koehler, K) - To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB203 YOUTH SUMMER JOBS INITIATIVE (Barnes, Jr., J) - To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging

initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB217 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (Rep. Andrew Brenner) To prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring students to disclose disciplinary actions on their applications for admission

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB220 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS (Rep. David Leland) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB224 RE-SERVING SCHOOL LUNCH ITEMS (Rep. Catherine Ingram) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB227 LICENSE PLATE-KENSTON LOCAL SCHOOLS (Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To create the "Kenston Local Schools" license plate

STATUS: House Transportation & Public Safety Committee

HB235 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PROCEDURE (Rep. Theresa Gavarone) Regarding procedures for approval or disapproval of the state education plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act

STATUS: Introduced

HB237 MULTICOUNTY LOCAL ELECTIONS (Rep. Dorothy Pelanda) To require a political subdivision with territory in more than one county that places an issue on the ballot to notify the board of elections of every county in which the political subdivision has territory, to require the Secretary of State to establish a database to facilitate communication between the boards of elections and the Secretary concerning local elections, and to make an appropriation

STATUS: Introduced

HB242 SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING (Rep. Rick Carfagna) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments

STATUS: Introduced

HB246 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CLASSROOMS (Rep. John Boccieri, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide funding to certain county boards of developmental disabilities to assist in the acquisition of classroom facilities

STATUS: Introduced

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SENATE

SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Bill Beagle, Sen. Troy Balderson) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0

SB5 INCREASING INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS (Sen. Jay Hottinger, Sen. John Eklund) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to college savings accounts and disability expense savings accounts to \$10,000 annually for each beneficiary, to create the Joint Committee on Ohio College Affordability, and to declare an emergency

STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB8 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (Sen. Randy Gardner, Sen. Louis Terhar) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security

STATUS: (Passed by Senate) House Education & Career Readiness Committee

SB9 AUGUST TAX HOLIDAY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes

STATUS: (Passed by Senate) Passed by House amended on Floor, Vote 96-1; Emergency clause, Vote 95-2; Senate concurs with House amendments, Vote 30-1; Emergency clause, Vote 30-1

SB10 PRIMARY ELECTION REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Frank LaRose) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 32-0

SB15 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges, and university branches to comply with minority business enterprise set-aside requirements, and to require the Director of Administrative Services to establish guidelines for these entities, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, to establish procurement goals for contracting with EDGE business enterprises

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB17LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALLOCATION (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund each month

STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB34SCHOOL YEARS (Sen. Gayle Manning) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB36AGRICULTURAL COMPUTATION (Sen. Cliff Hite) To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0

SB39COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB54SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (Sen. Edna Brown, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB72PREVAILING WAGE LAW (Sen. Matt Huffman) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects

STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB79STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE (Sen. Kris Jordan) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB82SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB85 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (Sen. Matt Huffman) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB88 SUBDIVISION COMMISSIONS-FISCAL EMERGENCY (Sen. Louis Terhar) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0

SB97 REGIONAL STUDY COMMITTEE CREATION (Sen. Frank LaRose, Sen. Kenny Yuko) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB104 PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB105 MONTH DESIGNATION-OHIO PRINCIPALS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month"

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB111 SCHOOL ZONE SIGN LIGHTS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB123 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT PROCESS (Sen. William Coley) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located

STATUS: Senate Ways & Means Committee

SB124 COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (Sen. Sandra Williams) To qualify students in noncredit community college and career and technical programs for Ohio College Opportunity Grants and to require the awarding of academic credit for community colleges' career certification programs

STATUS: Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee

SB133 STUDENT DISCIPLINE-VIOLENT BEHAVIOR (Sen. Frank LaRose) To require the Education Management Information System to include information regarding persons at whom a student's violent behavior that resulted in discipline

was directed and to require the Department of Education to submit a one-time report to the General Assembly regarding that information

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB140 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To create the Public-Private Partnership Grant Program for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to develop, enhance, and promote educational programs to address regional workforce needs; to create the Sector Partnership Grant Program for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to identify and provide grants to industry partnerships; to support programs that improve access to workforce training opportunities for students; to support economic development and revitalization programs; and to make an appropriation

STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB149 ELECTION POLLING PLACES-SCHOOLS (Sen. Frank LaRose) Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB151 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS (Sen. Cliff Hite) To permit, rather than require, the School Employees Retirement System to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement, disability, and survivor benefit recipients and to reduce the maximum amount of the adjustment

STATUS: Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee

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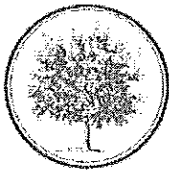
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm guessing that not many of you know that the Bayou state (which was originally dubbed *La Louisiane* in tribute to Louis XIV--King of France from 1643 to 1715) has gotten into a budgetary pickle here in the year 2017 AD.

Fear not.

To help policymakers in Baton Rouge sort out their options, The Buckeye Institute collaborated with our good friends at the Pelican Institute (Louisiana's premier voice for free markets) to conduct a peer reviewed study on a dozen tax policies and proposed changes, including some of Governor John Bel Edwards's ill-advised plans.

Buckeye's Economic Research Center (ERC) team created a customized dynamic model of Louisiana's existing economy and then inputted various policy changes to determine which solutions would create the least amount of economic harm to the already struggling families and businesses in Louisiana.

When numbers speak, we listen. Our team of economists and data analysts is second to none and, golly jeepers, do they ever get excited about charts and graphs and exploring the validity of their hypotheses with hard numbers. For those of us whose highest math class was a senior year of honors calculus in high school before we took that wretchedly easy class widely known as "math for liberal arts (a.k.a. political science) majors" in college, these guys are the mad scientists and geniuses who understand complex theorems and derivatives the way I understand my son's excuses for avoiding his homework. In other words, they see through to the truth of the matter at hand.

After finalizing our research, our lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., along with Buckeye's president and CEO Robert Alt, flew down to make the case in person and present the results of our comprehensive analysis. These two Buckeye Institute superstars met with policymakers and leaders in the legislature, industry groups, press and media folks, and showed all of them the simulated policy changes through our economic model.

The model determined that eliminating the corporate income tax and replacing it with a revenue neutral sales tax increase would create jobs, grow the economy, and increase tax revenue. Only a Maoist could oppose those exciting outcomes. Approximately two weeks after these meetings, the same legislative leaders with whom our team met soundly defeated the Governor's policy proposals. Three cheers for economic sanity and courageously standing up to bad fiscal policy.

We are pleased to roll out this impactful new report, *Addressing Louisiana's Budget Shortfall: Strategies for Growth*, and show everyone in greater detail what our economic model produced.

"Rather than pursue revenues through increasing the tax burden on citizens, Louisiana would be better served by reducing or eliminating its corporate taxes, and creating incentives for increasing investment, and job creation across the state," said Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center and lead author on the report. "Eliminating Louisiana's corporate income and franchise taxes offer the best path for spurring economic growth and eliminating some sales tax exemptions would have the least harmful effect on the state's gross domestic product while still raising additional tax revenue."

I should note here that it has come to our attention that some very dear supporters of ours are not reading all of our reports in full. They are long, yes, but what better way to prepare yourself to refute the one we heard the other day where Nancy Pelosi was speaking to a classroom full of second graders and was asked the awkward question

about where jobs come from. Without missing a beat, she answered that there is a stork employed by the government who drops them off in each state every nine months.....

Okay, fine, that was a lame joke, but still, you should read these excellent economic reports that give us all the evidence necessary to push back against the big-government nonsense that surrounds us.

We love you all and thank you kindly for making our work possible to fight unsound economic policies wherever they are--whether here in Columbus or another state in this great nation, so that we do not meanly lose this last best hope of earth.

###

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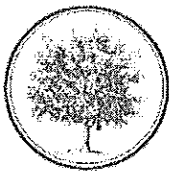
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2017 6:33 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Our beloved Louisiana isn't the only state tax system that needs intervention

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

We're definitely looking at you O-H-I-O....

Earlier this week, we sent out an email announcing our brand new study on Louisiana's economy. Well, that was a fitting precursor to our exciting news today about our own backyard!

As many of you know, our state policymakers here in Columbus are engrossed in serious budget debates to end all budget debates. We have given them our best and smartest recommendations on how to fix the revenue shortfalls. The jury is out on whether they will take our advice. We know our numbers are sound and our policy ideas have economic truth behind them, so let's hope together that our legislative leaders are indeed ready to lead us forward to prosperity. As Churchill said, "The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is."

During this budget debate, we are especially excited to release a tremendous and timely new resource: The Buckeye Institute has produced a **fantastic book** in partnership with our good friends at the Tax Foundation in Washington, DC.

If you're anything like us, we know you're going to love it. It has so many beautiful charts and graphs. It's indisputably a fine work of art and showcases these gorgeous numbers in all of their splendor--although we have not yet had it formally appraised to see if there is any chance of it appreciating in value as a collector's item over the course of decades, but who knows? It's that kind of pretty. Hold on to it, read through each lovely page, study and treasure it along with your family heirlooms and keepsakes.

Voilà! *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy*

The book provides a detailed overview of Ohio's economy and highlights areas where the existing tax system is most in need of reform. It has been printed in hard copy and distributed to only our favorite members of the media and elected officials earlier today.

"Ohio's tax code contains too many provisions that hinder its ability to compete economically with other states. *Ohio Illustrated* shows how the state's growing tax burden has resulted in slower economic growth over the past several decades," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute. "This new book shows precisely how tax policy affects families, businesses, and our state's economic development."

Key findings from the snazzy looking book:

- **Ohio has one of the worst business tax climates in the country:** The Tax Foundation's *State Business Tax Climate Index* ranks states by their tax structures, and Ohio's needless tax complexity helps to drive its rank down to 45th in the country.
- **Ohio's municipal tax is a mess and in need of reform:** Both The Buckeye Institute and the Tax Foundation have testified before the legislature on this issue and agree that Governor Kasich's proposal in his FY 2018-2019 budget was a move in the right direction. Ohio has a complex web of local income taxes that makes the state's personal income tax one of worst in the country. Hundreds of municipalities and school districts impose local income taxes based on both where taxpayers work and where they live. Businesses face additional compliance costs by having to manage tax withholdings. Some parts of Ohio have top combined marginal tax rates of approximately nine percent, similar to those of high tax states like New Jersey and New York. Sheesh, we're commonsense Midwesterners, we don't need no stinkin' high taxes here!

- **Economically detrimental gross receipts tax:** Ohio is one of only five states that imposes a gross receipts tax (also known as a commercial activities tax or CAT), which means that taxes are levied at each stage of production, not just on final consumption. This hidden tax leads to higher consumer prices, lower wages, and fewer job opportunities as the tax permeates throughout the production cycle. This tax also leads to vastly different effective rates between different industries in Ohio. Dear Cronies: let's take a minute today to surgically remove your hands from the pockets of hardworking entrepreneurs and small businesses--it's high time for you all to succeed or fail on your own merit and pay the same tax rates as everyone else.

To reform Ohio's tax system, state policymakers need to consider not only tax burdens, but also tax fairness. The combination of Ohio's CAT and the state's administratively complex local income taxes causes significant burdens on the economy. *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy* shows with magnificent data, charts, and graphs how lawmakers in Ohio could improve the state's business climate by collecting tax dollars in a more efficient, fair, transparent, and competitive manner. We hope you love it every bit as much as we sure do!

That's all, folks, but because you read all the way to the end of this long email, you deserve this bonus Winston Churchill quote that is relevant to these discussions on Ohio's budget: "I object *on principle* to doing by legislation what properly belongs to charity."

###

Since its founding in 1989, The Buckeye Institute has served as Ohio's leading free-market public policy think. Through its state-of-the-art Economic Research Center, The Buckeye Institute provides legislatures, governors, state think tanks, and policy experts the data, analysis, and dynamic modeling necessary to understand the impact of various policy proposals on human behavior and economic indicators at the state level. The Buckeye Institute's nationally-recognized research includes studies on government spending and transparency, health care, labor, energy, education, legal, and taxation reforms.

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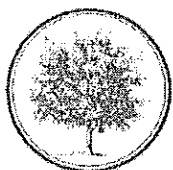
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Even the media thinks legislators should listen to Buckeye on the budget!

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ohio legislators are in the midst of a contentious biennial budget discussion involving the need to cut at least \$800 million to address projected revenue shortfalls.

As you will recall, The Buckeye Institute previously released our perennial fan-favorite **Piglet Book** to help guide those conversations, and we continue to call balls and strikes fairly whether pitched by our fiscal-hawk friends or government-worshipping foes. Legislators always want to ensure their pet projects and earmarks are not on our list of recommended cuts, but we kindly remind everyone that spending simply must be restrained to balance the budget and that means unpopular cuts are necessary.

Didn't we all learn this lesson when we got our first apartments? There isn't enough money coming in to spend wildly on booze-filled weekends, keep up with the latest fashion, sample trendy restaurant meals, cover the utilities, date that person you want to impress, and stay out of debt. Something must give.

Well, this morning just prior to the Ohio Senate releasing its version of the budget, our hometown newspaper and Ohio's paper of record--the beloved **Columbus Dispatch**--published an editorial citing heavily to your Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book and imploring legislators to cut the pork.

See for yourselves below.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let's just say if even the *press* thinks legislators ought to heed our sound advice.... Just saying.

= A

The Columbus Dispatch

= A

'Piglet Book' suggests savings in state budget

The Columbus Dispatch

The Editorial Board

June 12, 2017

= A

It's nose-in-the-trough time again at the Ohio Statehouse. While schools, prisons and Medicaid are major areas of spending in the two-year budget being hammered out in the Senate, other suggested appropriations are better examples of pork than public policy.

To help lawmakers focus on essential government services and responsibilities, the nonpartisan Buckeye Institute has again produced its "Ohio Piglet Book."

"The following items that are recommended for elimination are not necessarily bad things in general," report author, Greg R. Lawson writes in the 2017 edition by the free-market think tank. "However, they are not appropriate use of state resources."

The items singled out by the institute come from Gov. John Kasich's proposed budget and then were massaged in the House. How the final appropriations will look in the Senate by the end of this month is anyone's guess. It's politics. But it's worth legislators heeding the Buckeye Institute's general thrust when it comes to spending Ohioans' hard-earned loot: Focus on core government duties, curtail government growth, encourage

private-sector support and end corporate welfare - distributing government dollars to favored companies, disadvantaging competitors.

Take the \$2.4 million collected on behalf of Ohio-grown wine grapes. Every gallon of wine sold in Ohio, whether it comes from Lake Erie or California, is subject to a total of a nickel-per-gallon excise tax to subsidize a marketing program benefiting Ohio wine producers. Why should consumers foot the bill for Ohio wines? Why not impose an excise tax on hamburgers, to help Wendy's compete against McDonald's? Ohio lawmakers should put a cork in this spending.

Another area in which the research group suggests not spending tax dollars is for the Ohioana Library. Intense lobbying has been going on to spare this private, nonprofit organization from the budget ax; Kasich increased its operating funding from \$160,000 to \$180,000, which the House gutted entirely when it got its hands on the budget. (The library's rent subsidy remains.) The library curates a collection of Ohio authors and produces the Ohioana Book festival, among other things.

But tough budget decisions have to be made. The state needs to chop more than \$800 million from the budget, given falling income-tax revenues. This means prioritizing funding. The Ohioana Library already raises a large chunk of its budget from grants, donors and corporate sponsors. It's a wonderful asset, and it should be able to make a case for philanthropists to take over for taxpayers.

Yes, the library's costs are relatively small potatoes compared with the tens of billions Ohio spends each year, but pennies add up to dollars.

Likewise the Buckeye Institute cites other artistic and cultural endeavors it considers "ripe for termination." Among these is \$25.9 million in biennial state subsidies for the Ohio Arts Council, which the House trimmed to \$25.5 million. "The government should not be the arbiter of culture," it says, "Ohioans can evaluate for themselves which artists to patronize without the government's guidance."

Another target identified is \$722,900 over the two-year budget to support regulating Ohio Auctioneers through state licensing, which the institute says forces Ohioans to ask the state "Mother may I?" and seek government permission to work in their chosen field. "It is difficult to envision," the Institute writes, "what public safety issue could be at stake with respect to auctioneers."

The legislature should make sure that needless, burdensome and other nonessential government spending is going, going, gone.

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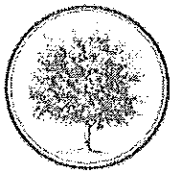
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 2:59 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: At White House, The Buckeye Institute and Ohio Senate President Obhof
Call for Greater Flexibility for the States on Health Care Reforms

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2017

At White House, The Buckeye Institute and Ohio Senate President Obhof Call for Greater Flexibility for the States on Health Care Reforms

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute, along with Ohio's Senate President Larry Obhof, attended a White House meeting on Wednesday that included legislative leaders from several states as well as nationally-recognized health care policy experts to discuss the concerns and needs of the states on health care reform.

Ohio's delegation to the meeting included Senator Obhof and Buckeye's own Executive Vice President Rea S. Hederman Jr. who were there to request more flexibility from Washington for the states to have more control over managing their own health care. Similar requests had previously been blocked by the Obama administration.

"Last week, Anthem left 20 Ohio counties without an insurer on the private market. If Obamacare actually worked as promised, insurance companies would not be abandoning these markets. Providing greater flexibility for each state to fix health care for its own population is an idea whose time has indisputably come," said Hederman, a nationally-recognized health care policy expert. "Senator Obhof has provided tremendous leadership on this issue in Ohio by using the state budget to require Ohio to seek an innovation waiver, and The Buckeye Institute was honored to join him in representing Ohio at the White House."

Senator Obhof and The Buckeye Institute have both urged the Department of Health and Human Services to grant Ohio a state innovation 1332 waiver, which would enable Ohio to eliminate the individual and employer mandates.

Hederman recently authored an article in *The Hill* where he reminded readers that no one wants anyone to be uninsured, "but glossing over the problems with health care reform and Medicaid won't provide people with quality health care," said Hederman. "Buckeye is proud to be leading the way in calling for bold action from the states in seeking waivers for Medicaid and state innovation and in calling for more flexibility to implement solutions for our citizens."

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 1:53 PM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 6/12/17 – 6/18/17



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting
"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily News: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

Daily Advocate: Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

Richland Source: Guest column from Rep. Mark Romanchuk: Remembering the significance of the flag

To many, the American flag is the ultimate symbol of the values that our nation was built on—democracy, equality, freedom, and more. Every day, it flies above us, standing strong in the face of the adversities our nation encounters.

Times Reporter: Guest column from Rep. Al Landis: Legislation strengthens our families and communities

An important part of the success of the House Republican Caucus is to have a focused, member-driven policy platform that serves as the guiding principle behind priority

legislation. Earlier this year, our caucus unveiled the Buckeye Pathway, our policy agenda for the 132nd General Assembly.

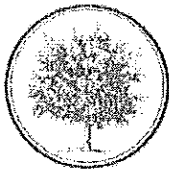
News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Rosenberger: Wilmington's indeed split-tacular

A banana divided in two, topped with three scoops of ice cream, and finished with chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and a cherry. What could possibly be more delicious on a hot summer day? To us in Wilmington, what makes the banana split so special is that it was originally created right here in 1907.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:52 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Dun, dun, dun--Kasich's time for choosing--the Ohio budget and two paths

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In case you were wondering what the bloody h-e-double-hockey-stick is happening in the war going on tonight and tomorrow over Ohio's biennial budget, we have a timely update: Governor Kasich--by law--has until Friday to either sign or veto the final budget that was passed today before the new fiscal year begins on Saturday....

Pressure is mounting. All eyes are once again on our beloved state.

In this battle, your Buckeye Institute has indefatigably supplied the intellectual ammunition of good policy to a legislature that was set on trying to do the fiscally responsible thing.

Governor Kasich is big on making choices as to taking one of two paths, and his time for choosing has officially arrived.

There is a fiscally responsible option, which is to sign the budget, and there is a decision that would saddle our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of government programs and spending for generations, which is to line-item veto the waiver provisions upon which Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof heroically insisted.

Your Buckeye Institute has spoken up every chance we had--in the thick of negotiations, to the media, and publicly on the record to anyone who would listen.

There is now nothing more that we can do except cross our fingers, hope, and pray to {insert deity of your choice} that Governor Kasich returns to his fiscally conservative roots and proves how firm his friendship is to O-H-I-O.

A few hours ago, Buckeye's Executive Vice President Rea Hederman posted a new piece in The Hill explaining the Medicaid expansion and healthcare issue more fully in an article worth reading, "[Ohio is blazing the trail on healthcare reform.](#)"

To paraphrase Bill Clinton, the big-government jig is up, friends.

It's time to put Obamacare down to its final resting place and lead these United States back toward freedom and prosperity.

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Your call, Mr. Governor.

Let's do it! Let's put Ohio back on the map as the undisputed leader of our nation once again. Blaze that trail. Show the rest of the states how it's done by rejecting Obamacare and securing Ohio the flexibility we need to chart our own path forward in healthcare.

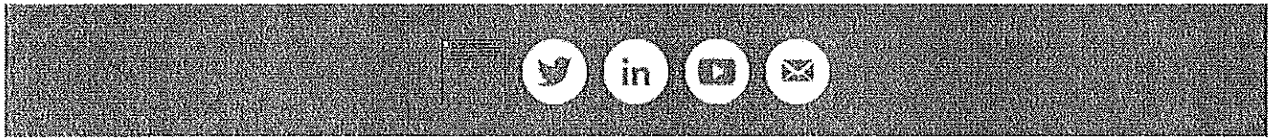
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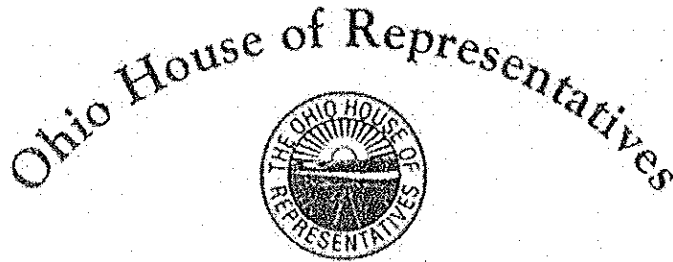
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Rep87
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 10:35 AM
To: GOP_All
Subject: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information
Attachments: Freeze Brief.pdf; We The People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll.pdf



Memorandum

To: House Republican Caucus
From: Representative Wes Goodman
Date: June 30th, 2017
Re: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information

I would first of all like to everyone who has offered their support to the Medicaid expansion enrollment freeze. As I said on this House floor, this is the most impactful action taken by any state to roll back and stop the Affordable Care Act, fulfilling promises we have all made to ensure a higher quality of care for all Ohioans. I thank you for your courage in joining me in the fight to ensure that our citizens are free to make their own healthcare choices, and that our Medicaid program is refocused on serving the truly vulnerable.

By now I am sure you have heard from detractors claiming that the freeze is not in the best interest of Ohioans. I encourage you to take a look at the following resources that support our decision and make clear that an expansion freeze is sound public policy.

- Attached: *Freeze Brief*, provides a general outline and talking points on the expansion freeze.
- Attached: *We the People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll*. This poll was taken yesterday, June 29th, and shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans and 81% of

all Republicans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the expansion freeze.

- Articles by Buckeye Institute Executive Vice President Rea Hederman Jr, published in The Hill
 - Highlighting issues with the sustainability and level of care provided by Medicaid: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/336600-medicare-doesnt-work-people-who-are-on-it-dont-have-better>
 - Highlighting and analyzing Ohio's role in "blazing the trail" on Medicaid reform: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/339889-ohio-is-blazing-the-trail-on-healthcare-reform>
- National Review article analyzing the fallaciousness of the bombastic claim, "people will die!":
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448952/obamacare-repeal-will-not-kill-thousands>
 - Note that this article is focuses on the claims being made about the Federal healthcare plans. This claim is even more detached from reality when used to decry our expansion freeze, which allows those currently covered to maintain coverage as long as they are eligible.
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability VP of Research Jonathan Ingram, explaining how the expansion has drawn funding away from the truly vulnerable: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/320620-freezing-obamacare-expansion-will-save-taxpayers-and-the-truly>
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability Senior Fellow Sam Adolphsen, presenting evidence that the expansion may actually exacerbate the opioid crisis: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/state-local-politics/339892-want-to-end-the-opioid-epidemic-start-by-freezing>
- Poll from the Foundation for Government Accountability, showing that voters support freezing the Medicaid expansion: <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/National-MedEx-Freeze-Poll-1-23-17.pdf>
- An op-ed that I recently penned that was published by the Daily Signal: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/06/30/ohio-already-rolling-back-parts-obamacare-states-can/>

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to joining you next week to override the Governor's veto, if need be.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance to you. My cell phone is (419) 210-0800 and I am available for questions anytime.

Sincerely,

Wes

Medicaid Expansion Freeze Brief

What the Freeze Does

- Prohibits the Medicaid program from covering the Group VIII (expansion) population beginning on July 1, 2018.
- Exempts those with diagnosed mental illnesses or drug addiction, allowing them to enroll after the freeze date.
- Allows those expansion enrollees enrolled by July 1, 2018 to maintain their coverage until they become ineligible or the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the Group VIII population is reduced by federal legislation.

Freezing expansion protects the truly needy

- Ohio's Medicaid waiting list enrollment sits at nearly 60,000. These are Ohioans with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities who aren't getting the care they need.
- Meanwhile, Ohio is spending billions on welfare for able-bodied (mostly childless) adults.
- Every penny spent on these adults is a penny that can't go to help Ohio's truly vulnerable.
- An enrollment freeze would immediately begin to make the truly needy a priority once again by moving able-bodied adults back to independence and freeing up limited resources for the vulnerable.

Freezing expansion protects taxpayers

- Ohio's Medicaid expansion has been overbudget since Day One.
- From January 2014 through March 2017, total expansion costs ran \$6.1 billion higher than originally projected in 2013 – an overrun of 94 percent. By the end of the year, that overrun will total a whopping \$8.3 billion.
- State taxpayers are now on the hook for 5% of these costs, with that share growing to 10% by 2020. Although the state has only been paying a share of the cost for a few months, the state's share has already run \$38 million over projections – an overrun of 125 percent. That overrun is projected to increase to \$145 million by the end of the year.
- Congress is poised to repeal the enhanced funding for expansion altogether. The House version of the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) would eliminate enhanced funding for new enrollees after 2020. The Senate version eliminates enhanced funding through a 3-year phase out, beginning in 2021.
- An enrollment freeze would stop the bleeding immediately, reducing costs and giving taxpayers much-needed relief. Based on the experiences in other states, freezing expansion enrollment at the end of the fiscal year will save between \$4.2 billion and \$5.5 billion over the next biennium. The state share of those savings would total between \$243 million and \$315 million.

Freezing expansion protects enrollees

- An enrollment freeze would allow current enrollees to stay on the program as long as they remain eligible.
- This avoids disruption for enrollees, allowing them to maintain enrollment until their situation improves enough that they can obtain insurance through the individual market or an employer.

Freezing expansion is politically popular

- A national 2017 poll found that voters support freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment by nearly two-to-one margins (53% to 33%).

Freezing expansion is practical and possible

- Other states have used enrollment freezes to unwind pre-ObamaCare expansions to childless adults and to unwind S-CHIP expansions.
- Freezes were previously approved by President Bush and President Obama.
- CMS can grant a waiver to allow states to freeze enrollment.
- CMS is set to release new guidance that will provide state options to freeze enrollment and reduce eligibility levels in the expansion.

Freezing expansion would have no effect on the drug addicted and mentally ill

- Mental health and addiction services accounted for only 5.62% of total expansion spending in 2016.
- Conference committee's version of the budget exempts individuals with mental health and drug addictions from the freeze, allowing them to enroll or reenroll past the freeze date of July 1, 2018.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 29, 2017

**POLL SHOWS OHIOANS – ESPECIALLY REPUBLICANS – DEMAND MEDICAID
EXPANSION FREEZE**

Akron, OH – Tom Zawistowski, President of the We the People Convention announced the results of a statewide Ohio poll tonight concerning the Medicaid Expansion Freeze that was included in the Budget just passed on Wednesday by the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Contrary to polls put out by medical groups and others who benefit financially from Medicaid Expansion, the We the People Convention Poll shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze in the budget, which does not cut anyone's Medicaid benefits, but simply stops growing the program that is already \$7 Billion over budget. Furthermore, the survey showed that if Governor Kasich does line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze, a plurality of all Ohioans, 51.7% to 49.3%, said that they would want the Ohio House and Ohio Senate to reconvene next week and override the Governor's veto.

Since the state is controlled by Republicans and the Budget was pass with only Republican votes, all of them from Governor Kasich, to Speaker Rosenberger and Senate President Obhof, and every Republican in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, will get a very strong message from the poll results from their Republican voters. A total of 81% of Republican voters do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze. Then an equally strong 68.5% of Republican voters want Republicans in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate to Override the Governor's Veto if required.

Commenting on the poll, Zawistowski said, "Ohioans understand that Governor Kasich's Medicaid Expansion is simply unsustainable. We credit the Republican members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, and their leadership, for recognizing that someone has to stop Kasich before he bankrupts Ohio. While we in the TEA Party/Liberty movement believe that Medicaid Expansion should be ended – its not Medicaid it is welfare expansion – we were convinced that a first step of just stopping the growth of the program, without cutting anyone's benefits, was a "caring way" to take a first step as our Governor likes to say. We fully expect him to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze because John Kasich sees no reason to ever stop giving other people's money away while pretending he cares so much about people – but never mentioning the tax payers who pay for all his misguided spending. Therefore, we also fully expect, and all Republicans should expect, all 59 House Members who voted for the budget with the Freeze in it on Wednesday, and ALL 7 members who did not vote for the budget, to join all 23 members of the Senate next Thursday, July 6th and impose some financial sanity on the Governor by overriding his veto and representing their constituents – particularly the tax payers in their districts who are paying the bill for this irresponsible and unnecessary spending."

This Ohio poll was conducted for the We the People Convention, Inc. by TRZ Communications Services, Inc. of Akron, Ohio which was the polling company that first predicted the Trump Ohio landslide victory in last year's Presidential election. This automated poll was conducted on Thursday, June 29, 2017 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. The poll was designed to gather public opinion on the issue of Freezing Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. Calls were placed to 45,105 randomly selected voters from our data base of 4.5 million current land line phone numbers in Ohio. Of the 9,901 who answered our call, 625 respondents completed our automated poll, a 6.3% response rate. The poll has a margin of error of $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Demographically 26.99% of respondents vote Democrat, 29.6% vote Republican and 43% do not affiliate with any party. The gender breakdown was 57.68% women and 42.32% men. Results were gathered from 80 of the 88 Counties in Ohio. Every age group from 24 year olds to 90 year olds were surveyed.

Answer	Number	Percent	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Veto the Freeze	246	39.4%	35 - 19%	90 - 52.3%	121 - 45%
Do NOT Veto the Freeze	379	60.6%	149 - 81%	82 - 47.7%	148 - 55%
Override the Veto	317	51.7%	126 - 68.5%	65 - 37.8%	126 - 46.8%
Do NOT Override the Veto	308	49.3%	58 - 31.5%	107 - 62.2%	142 - 53.2%

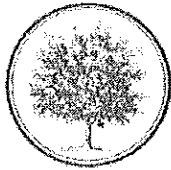
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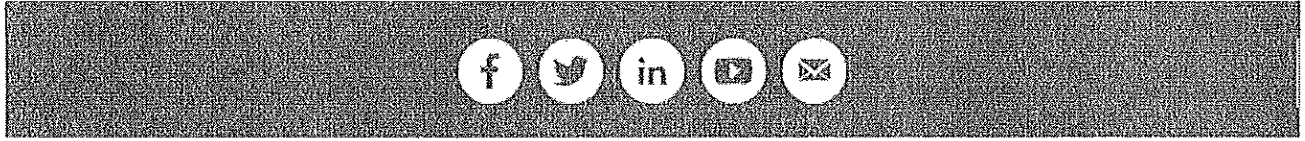
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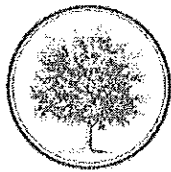
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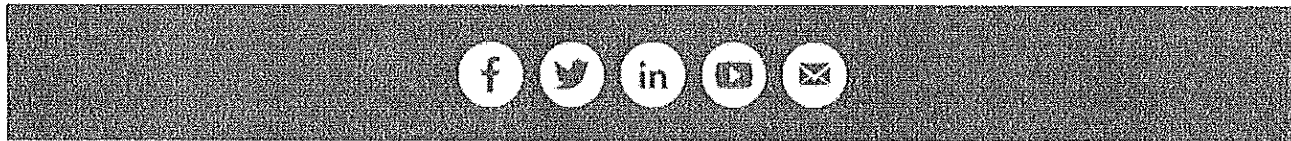
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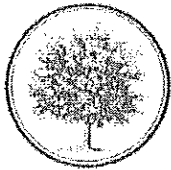
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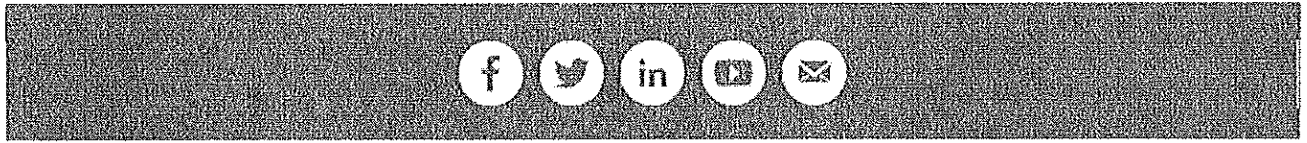
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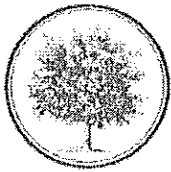
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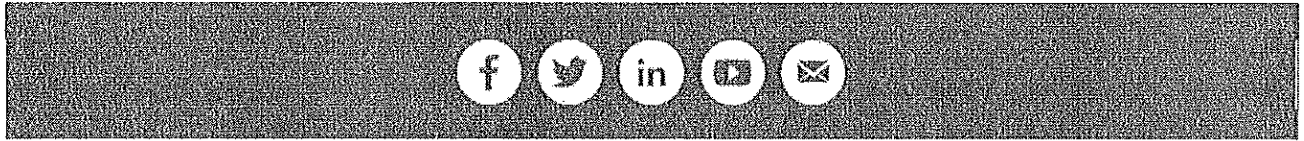
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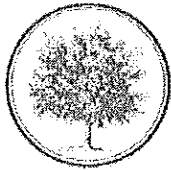
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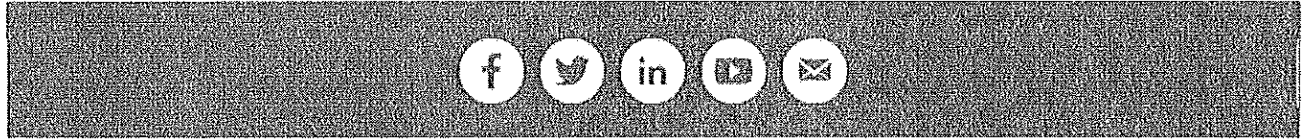
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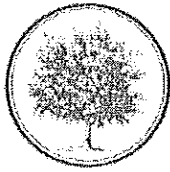
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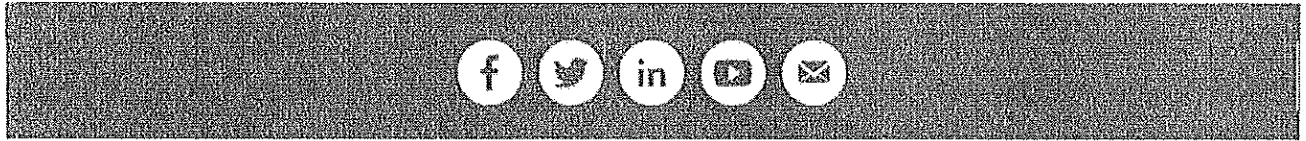
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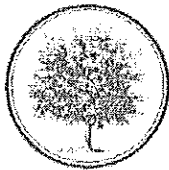
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"Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree is a violation of their First Amendment rights," said Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Neither Mr. Janus, nor anyone else, should ever be forced to pay fees to a union just to keep their jobs. Such compulsion is fundamentally unjust and unconstitutional."

Illinois, among other states, forces public sector employees who opt out of the union to pay an agency fee, which is supposed to support the union for collective bargaining services, including lobbying on behalf of the union. As a result, Mr. Janus, a child support specialist with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, is forced to pay fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a government union, to keep his job.

As Mr. Janus said in a **January 2016 op-ed** in the *Chicago Tribune*:

"I went into this line of work because I care about kids. But just because I care about kids doesn't mean I also want to support a government union. Unfortunately, I have no choice. To keep my job at the state, I have to pay monthly fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, a public employee union that claims to 'represent' me...

"The union voice is not my voice. The union's fight is not my fight. But a piece of my paycheck every week still goes to the union. I am not anti-union. Unions have their place. And some people like them. But unions aren't a fit for everyone. And I shouldn't be forced to pay money to a union if I don't think it does a good job representing my interests."

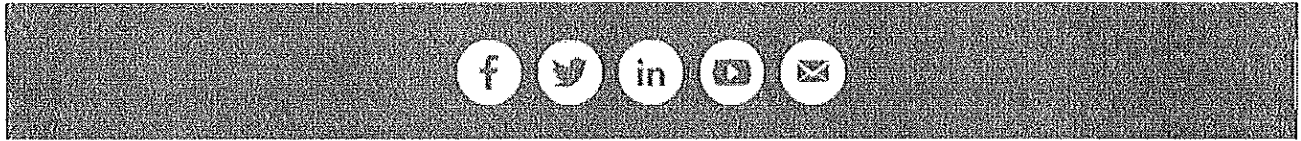
The Buckeye Institute's amicus brief was filed on July 7, 2017.

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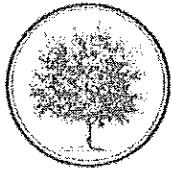
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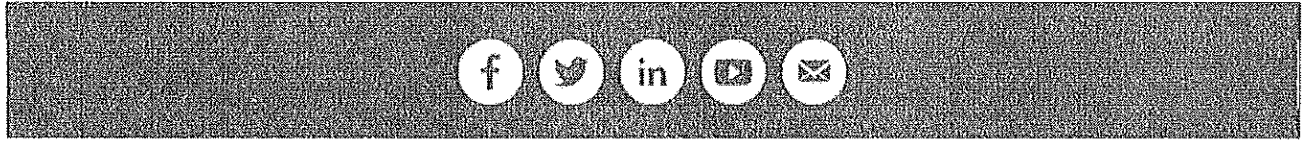
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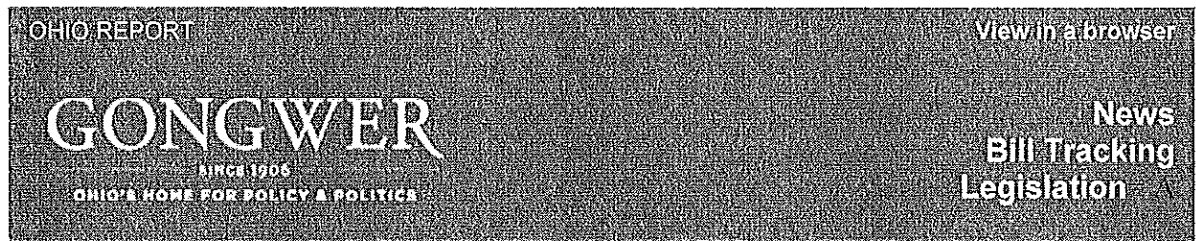
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